

Command Sergeant Major Debra L. Strickland continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the U.S. Army, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of CSM Strickland and all women in the military.

**DISAPPOINTED BY DECISION TO
CLOSE INPATIENT CARE AT VA
HOSPITAL IN SAGINAW**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in the Secretary of Veteran Affairs decision to eliminate the inpatient care services at the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Medical Center in Saginaw, Michigan. This decision will have a devastating impact on the quality and accessibility of medical care for over 60,000 veterans in Mid-Michigan.

In Michigan, 130,000 veterans rely on the services and benefits of the Veteran Affairs' health care system. Every one of those veterans, regardless of location, deserves immediate and convenient access to the best medical care services available. Removing the inpatient beds at the Lutz Medical Center will hinder the delivery and accessibility of medical care to veterans in our area.

We can not allow the Bush Administration to turn its back on our veterans and disrupt access to health services that they are entitled to receive. None of our nation's 26 million veterans should ever be denied or stripped of essential medical services. It is unconscionable and unacceptable that our local veterans will be forced to travel more than two hours to the nearest Veteran Medical Center for inpatient care.

I urge my colleagues to fight against the Secretary of Veteran Affairs' decision to realign or eliminate medical care services from VA hospitals across this country. We owe it to our veterans to fight this decision to show our gratitude for their service and sacrifice to our country. We must continue to work together to make sure that America's heroes receive the best medical care available.

**HONORING THE AMERICAN LUNG
ASSOCIATION CELEBRATING ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the American Lung Association on its 100th anniversary. The American people have no better ally in the fight against lung disease, and I am proud to join with the American Lung Association as it commemorates this special occasion.

In 1904, a dedicated group of physicians, nurses and volunteers came together and founded the American Lung Association in order to fight for the eradication of tuberculosis. Over the years, the Lung Association

has expanded its research, education and advocacy program to address chronic lung disease.

Programs like Open Airways For Schools, which is an elementary-school education program that teaches children with asthma how to manage their disease, is just one example of the many ways the American Lung Association has improved the lives of individuals afflicted with lung disease.

The Lung Association has also been a strong advocate for pollution control and environmental health. Air pollution can be particularly harmful to individuals who suffer from lung disease, and the Lung Association's annual State of the Air report is nationally recognized for providing an indepth study of air quality across the country.

The people of the American Lung Association deserve to be recognized for their invaluable public service. I wish them all the best as they celebrate their first 100 years.

**MILLER MOTION TO INSTRUCT
CONFEREES ON FY04 LABOR-HHS
BILL, H.R. 2660**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I support the Miller motion to instruct conferees because it ensures that those making as little as \$23,660 a year are able to retain the overtime privileges they currently receive.

Mr. Speaker, I was a human resources professional for ten years in a manufacturing company, and then for ten more years, I had my own company, advising high tech companies on their personnel policies and practices . . . including wage and salary structures. I know a thing or two about work structures.

Under the new overtime rules a "team leader" would be ineligible for overtime. I'm going to tell you what a team leader is: first of all, a team leader is not a professional that has a whole group of professional people working as a team negotiating for some grand project in some community. That team leader is a professional period, not a person paid on an hourly rate or a salaried nonexempt person.

In reality a team leader is a senior employee who has the background and the experience to earn the top of their pay rate. And because they've been around, because they know something, they've been asked to show more junior workers how to do the work, and to give them confidence and to give them guidance.

But they're doing the work right alongside of the worker they are mentoring. Today this person earns the top of their pay grade plus overtime. Under the new rules, without that overtime, that "Team Leader" is probably going to earn less than the person that they're working and guiding. The person the "Team Leader" guides will still qualify for overtime for the same hours worked.

So what are we talking about here? We're talking about people at the top of their pay grade getting less because they happen to have institutional knowledge, even though they are doing the same job. And I just don't see how anybody here in this chamber believes that any new rules that impact workers like these are good for most Americans.

These rules help big business plain and simple, such as the newspaper publishers who were standing up and cheering Secretary Chao when she announced how these rules would allow them to stop paying overtime to journalists. They knew they were going to save money, lots of money.

Well, a rule that works for a handful of business owners and against most of the workers can't be the rule that works for the people of this country.

That's why I urge my colleagues to support the Miller motion to instruct conferees and prevent our hard working Americans from losing the overtime they have come to depend on.

**HONORING THE VISITING NURSE
ASSOCIATION OF SOMERSET
HILLS, NEW JERSEY**

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, Somerset County, New Jersey in my Congressional District. The Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills is celebrating one hundred years of providing excellence in community health care.

Despite its humble beginnings, the Association's history is a proud one. The Visiting Nurse Association began as the vision of Miss Lillian Nichols, a parish nurse connected to St. Bernard's Episcopal Church who attended to the ailing and meager in 1903. In 1904, a group was fashioned and be accountable for her assistance to the people of Somerset Hills consisting of the towns of Basking Ridge, Bernardsville, Chester Borough, Gladstone, and Mendham Borough, to name a few. And so began the Visiting Nurse Association, one of the original 100 groups in the United States. Soon, as more and more of her thankful patients availed themselves of its services, it became clear that the Association was desperately needed in this fast-growing area in Northern New Jersey.

The founding committee was incorporated in 1906 as the Visiting Nurse Association and transferred into a habitat built by the friends of the Association on Olcott Avenue in Bernardsville. In 1910 the VNA started educational programs on sanitation and preventative health procedures that carry on in the present day. In 1933 the Great Depression forced the VNA to increase its efforts at social work. They provided milk, cod liver oil and coal to reduce poverty and malnutrition, and 708 patients visited that year, an increase of six-fold in one year!

By 1937 the new VNA Constitution and bylaws increased the number of Board of Trustees members to 40. In 1970 the 'Year of Vaccination for the VNA' nurses attempted to eliminate Rubella, or German measles, through the vaccination of 4,435 children. Soon after, diabetes screening by the VNA started. And in 1984, the treatment of the incurably sick at home, was started by the VNA and their Hospice Program flourished. Five years later, the Somerset Hills Adult Day Care Center opened, a VNA affiliate that offers a social day care program to the elderly and disabled.